

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 11-18, 20, and 23 without prejudice, and amend claims 2-3, 6, 8-10, 19, and 21-22 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said data for said plurality of customer locations includes travel time and cost to transfer a part from each of said plurality of stocking locations to each of said customer locations.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of determining inventory levels of parts for a plurality of stocking locations, said method comprising:

providing data for a plurality of customer locations, unit price of said parts, request rates for each of said parts for each of said customer locations, handling costs for each of said stocking locations, and travel time and transportation cost between said stocking locations ~~The method of claim 1, wherein said request rates include a probability distribution for one or more of said request rates;~~

specifying a parts procurement time performance measure for transfer of said parts from said plurality of stocking locations to said plurality of customer locations, wherein said parts procurement time performance measure comprises the percentage of parts in said request rates which can be transferred from any said stocking location to each respective said customer location within a pre-specified time, and wherein equipment requiring one

18 or more of said parts is installed at one or more of said
19 plurality of customer locations;

20 entering said data and said performance measure into an
21 optimization computer program;

22 computing said inventory levels of said parts for said plurality
23 of stocking locations using said optimization computer program;
24 and

25 ordering sufficient numbers of said parts to maintain said
26 inventory levels at said plurality of stocking locations, wherein
27 said inventory levels are such that said performance measure is
28 met.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said probability
2 distribution is a Poisson distribution.

1 5. (Cancelled)

1 6. (Currently Amended) A method of determining inventory levels
2 of parts for a plurality of stocking locations, said method
3 comprising:

4 providing data for a plurality of customer locations, unit price
5 of said parts, request rates for each of said parts for each of
6 said customer locations, handling costs for each of said stocking
7 locations, and travel time and transportation cost between said
8 stocking locations;

9 specifying a parts procurement time performance measure for
10 transfer of said parts from said plurality of stocking locations

11 to said plurality of customer locations, wherein said parts
12 procurement time performance measure comprises the percentage of
13 parts in said request rates which can be transferred from any
14 said stocking location to each respective said customer location
15 within a pre-specified time, ~~The method of claim 1,~~ wherein said
16 parts are grouped by importance into a plurality of groups and
17 said pre-specified time comprises a corresponding plurality of
18 times-, and wherein equipment requiring one or more of said parts
19 is installed at one or more of said plurality of customer
20 locations;

21 entering said data and said performance measure into an
22 optimization computer program;

23 computing said inventory levels of said parts for said plurality
24 of stocking locations using said optimization computer program;
25 and

26 ordering sufficient numbers of said parts to maintain said
27 inventory levels at said plurality of stocking locations, wherein
28 said inventory levels are such that said performance measure is
29 met.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein inventory levels are
2 computed to minimize overall cost while meeting or exceeding said
3 plurality of times.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said
2 optimization computer program is a mixed integer optimization
3 program.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said

inventory levels are computed to meet a total inventory cost while maximizing the percentage of said parts in said request rates which can be transferred from any said stocking location to each respective said customer location within a pre-specified time.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising computing ~~the~~ an estimated time for each part to be transferred from any said stocking location to each respective said customer location for each of said parts in said request rates.

11-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for instructing a processor to determine inventory levels of parts for a plurality of stocking locations, said computer program product comprising;

a computer readable medium;

first program instruction means for providing data for a plurality of customer locations, unit price of said parts, request rates for each of said parts for each of said customer locations, handling costs for each of said stocking locations, and travel time and transportation cost between said stocking locations, wherein said request rates include a probability distribution for one or more of said request rates;

second program instruction means for specifying a parts procurement time performance measure for transfer of said parts from said plurality of stocking locations to said plurality of

16 customer locations, wherein said parts procurement time
17 performance measure comprises the percentage of parts in said
18 request rates which can be transferred from any said stocking
19 location to each respective said customer location within a
20 pre-specified time, and wherein equipment requiring one or more
21 of said parts is installed at one or more of said plurality of
22 customer locations;

23 third program instruction means for ~~entering~~ providing said data
24 and said performance measure ~~into~~ an optimization computer
25 program;

26 fourth program instruction means for computing said inventory
27 levels of said parts for said plurality of stocking locations
28 using said optimization computer program; and

29 fifth program instruction means for ordering sufficient numbers
30 of said parts to maintain said inventory levels at said plurality
31 of stocking locations, wherein said inventory levels are such
32 that said performance measure is met; and wherein

33 all said program instruction means are recorded on said medium.

1 20. (Cancelled)

1 21. (Currently Amended) A method of determining inventory levels
2 of parts for a plurality of stocking locations, said method
3 comprising:

4 providing data for a plurality of customer locations, unit price
5 of said parts, request rates for each of said parts for each of
6 said customer locations, handling costs for each of said stocking

locations, and travel time and transportation cost between said
stocking locations;

specifying a parts procurement time performance measure, wherein
said parts procurement time performance measure comprises the
percentage of parts in said request rates which can be
transferred from any said stocking location to each said
respective customer location within a pre-specified time, and The
method of claim 20, wherein said parts are grouped by importance
into a plurality of groups and said pre-specified time comprises
a corresponding plurality of times;

entering said data and said performance measure into an
optimization computer program;

computing said inventory levels of said parts for said plurality
of stocking locations using said optimization computer program;
and

ordering sufficient numbers of said parts to maintain said
inventory levels at said plurality of stocking locations.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein
inventory levels are computed to minimize overall cost while
meeting or exceeding said plurality of times.

23. (Cancelled)